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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 OIC-04

DRC-01 SAM-01 IO-14 /122 W
----- 017498

O 132200Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6323

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

1. THE TEXT OF THE IS DRAFT COMMUNIQUE FOR THE OTTAWA MINISTERIAL MEETING APPEARS BELOW. BRACKETTED LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH 2 IS A HOLDING ACTION PENDING DECISIONS ON PROCEDURES FOR APPROVING AND ISSUING THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS. PARA 5 ON CSCE IS DERIVED LARGELY FROM AN FRG CONTRIBUTION WHICH, IN TURN, IS BASED ON THE EC-9'S RECENT REVIEW OF CSCE. LAST TWO BRACKETTED SENTENCES ARE ALTERNATIVES WAYS OF STRESSING THAT FURTHER POSITIVE RESULTS ARE NEEDED. FRG STRONGLY FAVORS THE FIRST.

PARAGRAPH 8 ON MBFR REFLECTS IN THE FINAL BRACKETTED SENTENCE A DUTCH VIEW, WHICH IS DISPUTED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, THAT THE COMMUNIQUE SHOULD SPECIFY THAT THE SECOND PHASE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COVER FORCES OF "ALL OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVING SIZEABLE GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA." UK, IN PARTICULAR, WHILE SUPPORTING DUTCH POINT IN SUBSTANCE (SEE SEPTTEL), HAS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED INCLUSION OF THIS BRACKETTED SENTENCE, IN COMMUNIQUE, WHICH THEY CONSIDER WOULD GIVE AWAY AN ESSENTIAL NEGOTIATING POINT.

BEGIN TEXT:
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THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MET IN MINISTERIAL SESSION
IN OTTAWA ON 18TH AND 19TH JUNE, 1974.

2. IN THIS, THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE ALLIANCE,

MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THE CONTINUED DEDICATION OF THEIR COUNTRIES TO THE AIMS AND IDEALS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. FOLLOWING FROM THE EXAMINATION DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROFOUND CHANGES WHICH WERE TAKING PLACE IN EVERY FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY, MINISTERS JOINTLY /SUBSCRIBED TO/ /ADOPTED/, ON BEHALF OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS, A DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS. THIS DECLARATION, WHICH /HAS BEEN ISSUED SEPARATELY/ /IS ANNEXED TO THIS COMMUNIQUE/, CONSTITUTES A RENEWAL OF THE COMMITMENT OF ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO THE ALLIANCE, AND SETS THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE ALLIANCE IN LIGHT OF THE NEW PERSPECTIVES AND FRESH CHALLENGES OF A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.

3. MINISTERS REVIEWED THE STATE OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS. THEY WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT ON THE PATIENT PURSUIT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE OF POLICIES AIMED AT REDUCING TENSIONS AND PROMOTING GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION, NOT ONLY BETWEEN STATES BUT ALSO BETWEEN PEOPLE. REAL AND LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS, THROUGH AN EXPANDING PATTERN OF CONTACT AND EXCHANGE, CALLED FOR A MUTUALLY CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH BY ALL CONCERNED. AT THE SAME TIME, GIVEN GROWING SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY POWER, AND THE RISK OF RENEWED TENSIONS, THE WEST MUST MAINTAIN, THROUGH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ITS RESOLVE AND CAPACITY TO DEFEND ITSELF.

4. GERMANY.

5. MINISTERS REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE. THEY REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING THEIR ENDEAVOURS IN THE CONFERENCE TO ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY RESULTS WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASING SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE, TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING STATES IN ALL SPHERES AND TO LOWERING BARRIERS BETWEEN PEOPLE. THEY NOTED
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WITH REGRET THAT WORK TO DATE AT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE HAD ADVANCED ONLY SLOWLY AND THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON SUCH IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AS THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN CONTACTS AND THE FREER FLOW OF INFORMATION, AS WELL AS ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES. MINISTERS ALSO REGRETTED THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO PURSUE THE NEGOTIATIONS PATIENTLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY IN A CONTINUING SEARCH FOR BALANCED AND SATISFACTORY RESULTS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTICIPATING STATES. /THEY CONSIDERED THAT SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS NEEDED TO BE ACHIEVED IN ALL FIELDS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ESTABLISHED BY THE FOREGIN MINISTERS AT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI BEFORE THE FINAL PHASE COULD BE CONVENED./ /THEY

HOPED THIS RESULT WOULD PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR FURTHER
AND MORE RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST./

6. MINISTER REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
SINCE THEIR LAST MEETING. THEY WELCOMED THE CONTINUING PROGRESS
WHICH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE, IN PARTICULAR
THE RECENT DISENGAGEMENT OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES AND
THE CONTINUATION OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. THEY
AFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR ALL ENDEAVOURS DIRECTED TOWARDS
A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA AND WELCOMED THE
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO UN PEACE-KEEPING
FORCES. MINISTERS ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE REPORT BY THE COUNCIL
IN PERMANENT SESSION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
PREPARED ON THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. THEY INVITED THE COUNCIL IN
PERMANENT SESSION TO CONTINUE TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER REVIEW
AND TO REPORT FURTHER.

7. MINISTERS REPRESENTING COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATE
IN NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENCE PROGRAMME REVIEWED THE CONDUCT
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS.
THEY EMPHASISED THAT THEIR COUNTRIES HAVE ACTIVELY PURSUED
SUCH REDUCTIONS EVER SINCE THE REYKJAVIK DECLARATION OF 1968,
AND AFFIRMED THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THESE MINISTERS
CONSIDERED THAT MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE
A JOINT CONTRIBUTION, BASED ON ALLIED SOLIDARITY, TO THE
LESSENING OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE AND TO A MORE STABLE PEACE.
THEY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAD TAKEN
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PLACE IN THE COUNCIL IN PERMANENT SESSION, LEADING TO AGREEMENT
ON QUESTIONS OF OBJECTIVES, POLICY AND STRATEGY. THEY
INSTRUCTED THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE ITS WORK.

8. THESE MINISTERS NOTED THAT THE CURRENT ROUND OF
NEGOTIATIONS IS ESSENTIALLY EXPLANATORY AND EXPOSITORY IN
NATURE AND IS CONTINUING TO PROCEED IN A BUSINESSLIKE WAY.
THEY EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO PERSIST IN THEIR EFFORT
TO BRING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION, ON
THE BASIS OF ALLIED PROPOSALS. THEY RECALLED THAT THE GENERAL
OBJECTIVE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE
STABLE RELATIONSHIP AT A LOWER LEVEL OF FORCES WITH THE
SECURITY OF ALL PARTIES UNDIMINISHED. THIS OBJECTIVE SHOULD
BE ACHIEVED BY ESTABLISHING APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN THE
TWO SIDES IN THE FORM OF A COMMON CEILING FOR OVERALL GROUND
FORCE MANPOWER ON EACH SIDE IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, TAKING
INTO ACCOUNT COMBAT CAPABILITY. /THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN
VIENNA HAVE, THEREFORE, PROPOSED A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT
PROVIDING FOR REDUCTIONS OF SOVIET AND US GROUND FORCES, TO
BE FOLLOWED BY A SECOND PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTIONS
IN THE FORCES OF ALL OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVING SIZEABLE
GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA./

9. IN REAFFIRMING THEIR CONVICTION THAT REDUCTIONS OF ALLIED FORCES IN EUROPE SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN EAST/WEST AGREEMENT, THESE MINISTERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN MINISTERIAL SESSION ISSUED ON 14TH JUNE, 1974.

10. SALT

11. THE NEXT MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN BRUSSELS IN DECEMBER 1974. RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO03365
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740687/abbryvpw.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005